

## Message Text

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10

ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 OMB-01 IO-11 EB-07 AID-05 CIAE-00

DODE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01

PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 /081 W

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R 290530Z JAN 76

FM AMEMBASSY TRIPOLI

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2921

INFO AMEMBASSY CAIRO

AMEMBASSY DACCA

AMEMBASSY ISLAMABAD

AMEMBASSY KABUL

AMEMBASSY KATHMANDU

AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI

C O N F I D E N T I A L TRIPOLI 0124

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR

SUBJECT: LIBYA IN SOUTH ASIA

1. RESPONDING TO LIBYAN FOREIGN MINISTRY UNDERSECRETARY DURDAH'S RECENT SOUTH ASIA TOUR, THE MOSLEM COUNTRIES OF THAT REGION HAVE HASTENED TO RETURN THE COURTESY. FIRST ON THE SCENE WAS BANGLADESH AIR VICE MARSHALL TAWAB (SEE TRIPOLI 99) FOR A FIVE DAY UNANNOUNCED VISIT. IT'S SAFE TO ASSUME THAT HE MADE PITCH TO LIBYANS (AMONG OTHERS) FOR MILITARY ASSISTANCE. TAWAB RETURNED DURING THE WEEK OF JANUARY 19TH AND THIS TIME WAS FEATURED ON THE FRONT PAGE OF LOCAL PRESS IN COMPANY OF LIBYAN CHIEF COL. QADHAFI. ALSO IN TOWN FROM BANGLADESH DURING THIS PERIOD WERE THE GOVERNOR OF THE BANGLADESH CENTRAL BANK AND THE BANGLADESH FINANCE SECRETARY. ACCORDING TO BANGLADESH CHARGE ZAMIR THEY LEFT WITH WARM BUT UNSPECIFIC PROMISES OF LIBYAN ECONOMIC AID AND POLITICAL SUPPORT AGAINST INDIAN DESIGNS. CHARGE WAS SOMEWHAT LESS FORTHCOMING ABOUT

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RESULTS OF SECOND TAWAB VISIT BUT WE INFER THAT SPECIFIC

PROMISES WERE NOT FORTHCOMING.

2. AFGHAN DEPUTY FOREIGN MINISTER WAHEED ABDULLAH'S VISIT WAS BRIEF. ACCORDING TO PAKISTAN AND BANGLADESH REPS HERE HE DID NOT SEE QADHAFI AND WAS UNABLE TO DELIVER DAOUD LETTER. THEY CLAIMED LIBYANS WERE NOT GREATLY MOVED WITH AFGHAN CASE ON PUSHSTUNISTAN BUT SPOKE VAGUELY ABOUT FUTURE LIBYAN FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE.

3. LATEST ARRIVAL WAS PAKISTAN'S ADDITIONAL FOREIGN SECRETARY SHAH NAWAZ WHO DID NOT SEE QADHAFI BUT PUT HIS CASE TO MINISTER FOR RCC AFFAIRS BEN AMIR. SHAH NAWAZ TOLD ME THAT HE BELIEVE HE HAD EFFECTIVELY COUNTERED AFGHAN APPROACH. HE ALSO BELIEVES LIBYA WILL CONTINUE TO SUPPORT PAKISTAN AGAINST "INDIAN PRESSURES". THE NEXT SCHEDULED VISITOR ACCORDING TO LOCAL PRESS IS PAKISTANI AZIZ AHMAD WHO IS ARRIVING IN EARLY FEBRUARY FOR MEETING OF THE PAKISTAN-LIBYAN JOINT COMMISSION.

4. LIBYA'S MOTIVES AND DEGREE OF SERIOUSNESS IN SOUTH ASIAN MATTERS NOT ENTIRELY CLEAR. SOME LOCAL OBSERVERS SPEAK OF QADHAFI'S CONCERN FOR "OUTER BASTIONS OF ISLAM". PRESUME OF COURSE THAT PAKISTANIS AND BANGLADESHIS WELCOMED AND MAY HAVE EVEN ENCOURAGED LIBYAN INTEREST. AFGHAN STOP MAY WELL HAVE BEEN AN AFTERTHOUGHT. THERE IS NO LOCAL EXPLANATION AS TO WHY NEPAL WAS INCLUDED ON THE DURDAH ITINERARY BUT INDIAN AMBASSADOR REMAINS GREATLY CONCERNED ABOUT ENTIRE TOUR.

5. AS FAR AS LIBYA IS CONCERNED PAKISTAN REMAINS BY FAR THE MOST IMPORTANT SUB-CONTINENTAL CONNECTION IN VIEW OF PROVISION AIRFORCE AND NAVAL ADVISORS AND LARGE CONTINGENT (HUNDREDS) OF MEDICAL PERSONNEL. BANGLADESH FOR ITS PART IS PROVIDING A SURPRISINGLY LARGE CONTINGENT OF MEDICAL ASSISTANCE ALMOST 300, INCLUDING DOCTORS, NURSES AND TECHNICIANS. INDIA IS EVEN LARGER SUPPLIER OF MEDICAL PERSONNEL AS WELL AS OTHER TECHNICIANS BUT AS SECULAR STATE NOT AS CONFIDENTIAL

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WARLY REGARDED.  
CARLE

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## Message Attributes

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